

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 21, 2005

Chairman Joe Barton
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Pete Domenici
Senate Energy and Resources Committee
364 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member John Dingell
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
2322 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Jeff Bingaman
Senate Energy and Resources Committee
312 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Barton and Domenici, Congressman Dingell and Senator Bingaman:

We are writing to express our strong support for the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS) included in the Senate-passed Energy Policy Act of 2005. The provision, which requires utilities to generate 10 percent of their power from renewable sources by 2020, represents a sound compromise, and we ask that you retain the provision in its current form in the final bill.

An unprecedented surge in natural gas power plant construction has contributed to the increase of natural gas prices to more than double the 1990 level. These increases have forced many manufacturing plants to reduce operations or move overseas. Farmers have been particularly hard hit because natural gas accounts for about 90 percent of the cost of fertilizer.

Fortunately, numerous studies have demonstrated that developing renewable energy sources can reduce gas use, reduce gas prices and save consumers money. According to studies conducted by the Energy Information Administration, a federal RPS would save consumers \$19.6 billion. Commercial and industrial customers would be the biggest winners – saving \$7.3 billion and \$6.5 billion respectively.

Twenty states and the District of Columbia have already enacted RPS requirements – many of these states go beyond the Senate provisions. But a federal 10 percent RPS is needed to establish a nationwide market-based trading system to ensure that renewables are developed at the lowest possible price. The Senate-passed provision allows utilities that have already begun developing renewable energy to put their existing renewables toward the new requirement, so these utilities will be rewarded for their previous efforts.

A federal RPS would help create jobs and expand economic development—namely in rural areas whose economies tend to struggle more. It would benefit farmers, who can harvest renewable energy for steady income. It would also help us continue to compete in the global renewable energy market, where we currently risk losing a competitive advantage. In addition to the obvious environmental benefits, these benefits

should provide impetus for the Congress to pass an RPS that sets fair and attainable—yet ambitious—goals.

We thank you for your effort to craft this year's energy bill through a cooperative and bipartisan manner. Again, we respectfully request that you retain the Senate-passed RPS in its current form in the final energy bill. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

Jon Udell

Jim Lund

Mark Udall

Frank Pallone, Jr.

Ed Cox

Jim Langevin

Rick Larsen

Carolyn McCarthy

Hyd Dwytt

John Smith

Harold Ford

Carol S. Schiff

Ellen L. Schwartz

Jim McPhee

Bruce Higgs

Michael H. Michael

Shelley Berkley

Jo Anne

Ruth Wexler

John B. Lucas

Jim McDevitt

Todd R. Platts

Betty McCollum

Zanny Baldoni

Russ Holt

John W. Oliver

Tom Allen

Ing Y

Austin Davis

Sam Fann

William C. Feltner

Rahm Emanuel

Christen Miller

Bruce Bann

Leonard Z. Bowell

Raul M. Grijalva

Dana Miller

Julia Carson

Grace J. Napolitano

Carolyn C. Kefauver

Lois Capps

Michael M. Hendo

Earl Blumenauer

Carolyn B. Maloney

Marlene Dandridge

Jerold Nadler

Doris O. Matsui

Tom Lantos

Donald Payne George Miller

William C. McCubbery Jim V. Gitterman

Marcy Kaptur Patricia R. Canem

Lane Evans

Edward J. Markey

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Edward Markey Peter A. Fyfe

Eric Bunker

Ernie L. Enger

Richard E. Neal

Lynn C. Woodley

Rosa C. J. Pan

Barney Kunk

Alice d. Hastings

Jan. T. Walsh

Vernon Ehlman

Basana Lee

Dennis J. Kravich

John E. Shaky

Steven Sam

**7-21-05 RPS Letter to Conferees –
73 Signers:**

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1) Tom Udall | 44) Earl Blumenauer |
| 2) James Leach | 45) Carolyn Maloney |
| 3) Mark Udall | 46) Maurice Hinchey |
| 4) Frank Pallone, Jr. | 47) Jerrold Nadler |
| 5) Ed Case | 48) Doris Matsui |
| 6) James Langevin | 49) Tom Lantos |
| 7) Rick Larsen | 50) Donald Payne |
| 8) Carolyn McCarthy | 51) George Miller |
| 9) Lloyd Doggett | 52) Michael McNulty |
| 10) Adam Smith | 53) Luis Gutierrez |
| 11) Harold Ford | 54) Marcy Kaptur |
| 12) Adam Schiff | 55) Major Owens |
| 13) Allyson Schwartz | 56) Lane Evans |
| 14) Jim McGovern | 57) Edward Markey |
| 15) Brian Higgins | 58) Dale Kildee |
| 16) Michael Michaud | 59) Eleanor Holmes Norton |
| 17) Shelley Berkley | 60) Peter DeFazio |
| 18) Jay Inslee | 61) Dan Burton |
| 19) Robert Wexler | 62) Eliot Engel |
| 20) John Larson | 63) Richard Neal |
| 21) Jim McDermott | 64) Lynn Woolsey |
| 22) Todd Platts | 65) Rosa DeLauro |
| 23) Betty McCollum | 66) Barney Frank |
| 24) Tammy Baldwin | 67) Alcee Hastings |
| 25) Rush Holt | 68) James Walsh |
| 26) John Olver | 69) Vernon Ehlers |
| 27) Anthony Weiner | 70) Barbara Lee |
| 28) Tom Allen | 71) Dennis Kucinich |
| 29) Tim Bishop | 72) Jan Schakowsky |
| 30) Susan Davis | 73) Gwen Moore |
| 31) Sam Farr | |
| 32) Collin Peterson | |
| 33) Rahm Emanuel | |
| 34) Chris Van Hollen | |
| 35) Brian Baird | |
| 36) Leonard Boswell | |
| 37) Raul Grijalva | |
| 38) Diana DeGette | |
| 39) Julia Carson | |
| 40) Grace Napolitano | |
| 41) Carolyn Kilpatrick | |
| 42) Lois Capps | |
| 43) Mike Honda | |